

# *The Carousel*

*News & Trader*

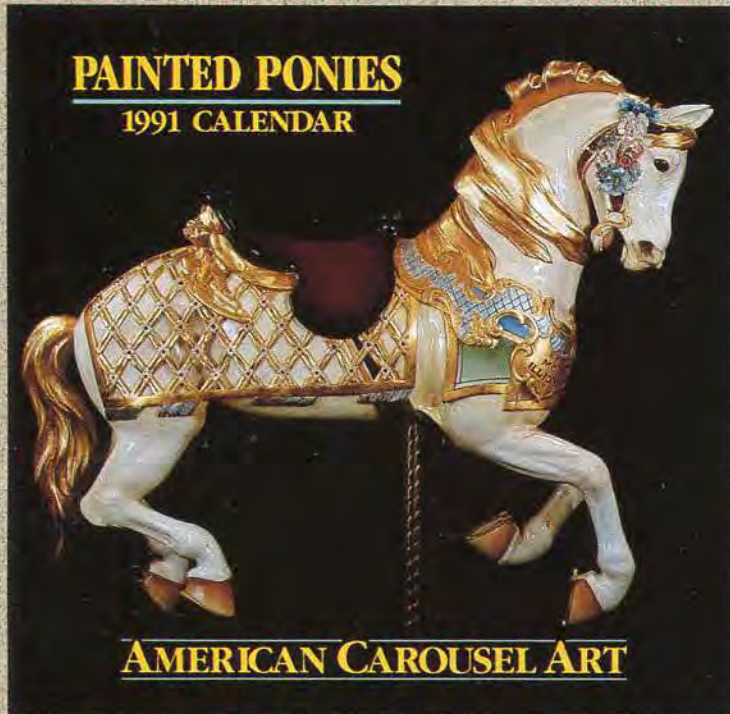
*October, 1990*

*Vol. 6, No. 10*



# THE PAINTED PONIES COLLECTION

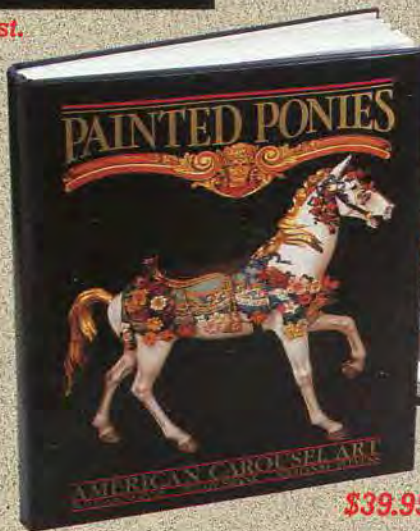
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## COVER

A magnificent Gustav A. Dentzel lion from the Bud Hurlbut Collection was the high seller at Norton Auctioneers of Michigan Inc. auction in Annaheim, California. The lion was bid to \$76,000 as collectors vied to own the best and finest piece in an assortment of over 100 carousel figures.

The 1905 lion rode the Knott's Berry Farm Lagoon carousel for over 30 years, and has been in storage for five years. Before that, his carousel operated in New Jersey.

For the lack of a purchaser for the whole carousel, collectors took home the lions, tigers, bears, cats, horses and other animals to be enjoyed, cared for, and loved.

The individual pieces of the Dentzel carousel totaled \$1,384, 250. (See story on page 34.)



A child shows off her new horse after her grandmother purchased it for her at Norton Auctioneers of Michigan Inc. sale of Long Point Park, Geneseo, New York. The horses on the 1950 Allan Herschell merry-go-round still had original factory paint. Each year the owners would carefully coat each horse with clear varnish to protect the original surface and ornamental decorations. (See story on page 45.) Photo: William Manns

## SLATER CAROUSEL TO BE RESTORED

The Loeff carousel at Slater Memorial Park in Pawtucket, Rhode Island is scheduled for restoration beginning this month. The turn-of-the-century Loeff menagerie carousel that has been there since 1910 carries all standers.

Community support is good enabling the city to start restoration with R&F Designs, Bristol, Connecticut. The 45 horses, 3 dogs, lion, giraffe and two chariots will be restored 6 pieces at a time. At 25¢ a ride, the carousel sees a lot of use. (From Mike and Noreene Sweeney)

## CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE ON GENERAL HOSPITAL

By Cathy Daniel

Readers on the lookout for carousels will be interested to know of a carousel that has been featured on television's soap opera, GENERAL HOSPITAL. The popular daytime program has featured a 30 foot Allan Herschell cast aluminum carousel in order to provide a carnival atmosphere.

This particular machine is owned by a carnival equipment company, and is in regular use on a traveling circuit basis. According to *General Hospital's* art director, Barry Williams, the use of the carousel for

one day's taping as part of a sequence in the story line at a carnival midway was a difficult feat to accomplish, as carnival equipment is booked heavily at this time of the year. He did not reply when asked how much these midway scenes cost to produce, just responding "A lot of money" according to the August 21, 1990 edition of *Soap Opera Digest*.

The Griffith Park, Los Angeles, California 1926 4 row Spillman was also used on the same program in flash-back sequences.

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# CAROUSEL CALENDAR

## AUCTIONS

**October 18** Christie's New York auction of the Alongonac Island Park 1916 Herschell-Spillman menagerie carousel. (See ad this issue.)

**October 20** Carousel Auctions Inc. auction of carousel figures at the New England Carousel Museum, Bristol, Connecticut. Consignments accepted. (See ad this issue.)

**November 3** Robert R. Kissel consignment auction, Stricker's Grove Park, Ross, Ohio. (See ad this issue.)

**November 24** Amusement Canvass Outfitters Inc. with The American Carousel & Novelty Co., Inc. will be hosting "The Saturday after Thanksgiving Auction" in Palm Beach, Florida. (See ad this issue.)

**December 15** Guernsey's New York City Carousel Auction.

## CAROUSEL EVENTS

**Current** Sandusky Merry-Go-Round Museum, Sandusky, Ohio is now open daily except Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays, 12-6 p.m. Hours subject to change, call ahead: June Washburn, (419) 626-6111. Located corner of Washington and Jackson, Sandusky, Ohio.

## CONVENTIONS

**October 10-14** National Carousel Association Convention, New York City.

**October 25-27** Park Show International, a trade show for amusement parks and leisure attractions, Rimini, Italy.

**November 14-17** International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Annual Convention and Trade Show, Washington, D.C.

## EXHIBITS

**Current-November 4** "Santa Cruz Beach & Boardwalk and Carousel Carver Charles I. D. Loeff"; a display from the American Carousel Museum at Santa Cruz, California.

**October, 1990-February, 1991** "Carousels Circle the World", an exhibit from the American Carousel Museum at the United Terminal, San Francisco International Airport.

## SHOWS & FESTIVALS (ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES)

**October 14** Woodcarving Show 10 a.m.-5 p.m., co-sponsored by Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission at Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Rd., Pontiac, MI 48054. (313) 682-5222/(683)-9574.

**November 16-18** Christmas Connection, the biggest show in the Midwest will have a theme of "Carousel Christmas" with a working carousel, a mock-up of a carousel shop and unusual carousel gifts for sale. At IX Center, Cleveland, Ohio. 12-10 Fri; 10-10 Sat; and 12-9 Sun.

**December 8** Christmas Exposition at the Merry-Go-Round Museum, Sandusky, Ohio, 10-6 p.m. Expecting 25 vendors. Vendor information: (419) 626-6111.

**January 5-6, 1991** Carousel figures will be on sale at the Nostalgia & Collectibles Show & Sale, Pasadena Exhibit Center, Pasadena, California.

**June 8-9, 1991** Carousel figures will be on sale at the Nostalgia & Collectibles Show & Sale, Pasadena Exhibit Center, Pasadena, California.

## SLIDE SHOWS, CLASSES AND LECTURES

**October 24** Slide show and lecture by Restoration Artist Tony Orlando entitled "The American Carousel" at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. Admission is charged. For details write to: The Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe, MI 48127. (313) 881-7511

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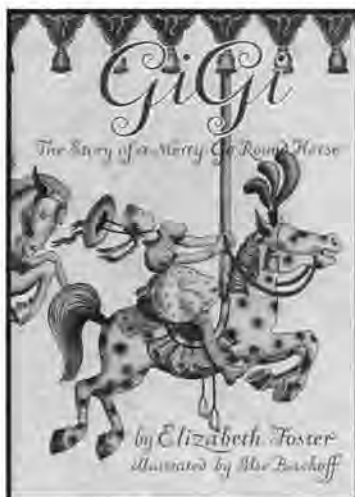
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## CLASS ON CAROUSELS IN MICHIGAN

Tony Orlando, Restoration Artist for the 1914 Herschell-Spillman country-fair style carousel now on display at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan, will present a lecture and slide show at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. The class will be Wednesday, October 24 from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Most carousels in this country were manufactured by a dozen or so companies between the 1880's and the early 1930's. The history of the American carousel will be explored in this slide lecture. Learn about the basic styles of carving, how to purchase carousel figures and how to restore them.

The cost is \$12.00 per person with advance ticket purchase recommended. Write: Grosse Pointe War Memorial Assoc., 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

# GOODBYE, CLEMENTON

Story and Photos by Noreene M. Sweeney

The small family-owned amusement parks have seen many changes over the years. As newer and larger theme parks open, the thrill rides and water activities offered there diminish the attendance at the smaller parks. Once hosts to thousands, the smaller parks must find ways to attract visitors while costs continue to increase.

Clementon, New Jersey is the site of one of these parks which has served the community for more than 80 years. Philadelphia Toboggan Company carousel number 49 has operated at the park since it was built in 1919. The carousel is a three-row machine,

composed of 16 outside standers, 12 second row jumpers, and 18 inside row pieces, of which three are standers. There are two typical massive PTC chariots, complete with the company monogram. The original brass bell still signals the beginning of each ride. Sadly, only a few horses remain from the original machine built in 1919.

The decision was made by the Baker family, owners of Clementon Park, to remove and replace the wooden antique horses and chariots. Earlier this year the first 23 of the wooden pieces appeared at Sotheby's for auction. Many of the replace-

ments are fiberglass reproductions which were original castings of the "real" horses. Fabricon of Glendale, New York, hosts for the 1990 NCA convention, created the startlingly convincing substitutes. The original whorls in the wood have been duplicated in these castings, and one must look quite carefully to detect their true composition.

Rotocast Americana Carousel Collection outside row PTC standers and inner row jumpers also populate this machine. Ernie Crea, General Manager of the park, explained that the use of these plastic horses has been an experiment for the carousel. Although some have peeling paint, revealing a very human-like flesh coloring beneath, he reports that they have worn well otherwise. Mr. Crea spoke well of his relationship with Rotocast, and believes that they will be able to resolve the paint problems.

Some of the original wooden horses are in storage, awaiting possible sale. They left the carousel only a few at a time, some destined for Sotheby's and Guernsey's auctions, while others have been sold privately. Years of abuse had taken its toll on these horses, where modern-day carvers add their own initials, etc. to the bodies. Legs and saddles were being mistreated when riders climbed aboard, and finally a decision was made to stop the misuse before the pieces deteriorated any further.

Charlie Reitz has operated the carousel for the past 27 years, and he is saddened by the loss of so many of his old charges. Although he is disappointed that the original horses have been replaced, he still guards the integrity of the machine as a whole. No



This reproduction on the Clementon Park carousel is so life-like you'd expect this horse to nuzzle the out-stretched hand.



One of the few wooden pieces left at Clementon Park, New Jersey.



A Fabricon cast resin stander. The children don't seem to care whether the horses are wooden or not!

one is allowed to ride backward or stand on any of these horses, whether they be fiberglass, wood or plastic. Watching these old friends take such abuse weighs heavy on his heart, and Charlie does what he can to assure that his carousel is treated with respect.

The band organ's facade has been re-

placed, but it still does operate the double rolls of music. The scenery panels are crackling under their old paint, but the machine operates quite smoothly and quietly, even on a day when the organ is not operating.

It does not seem to matter to the visitors at Clementon Park whether the horses are



A very convincing fiberglass military horse.

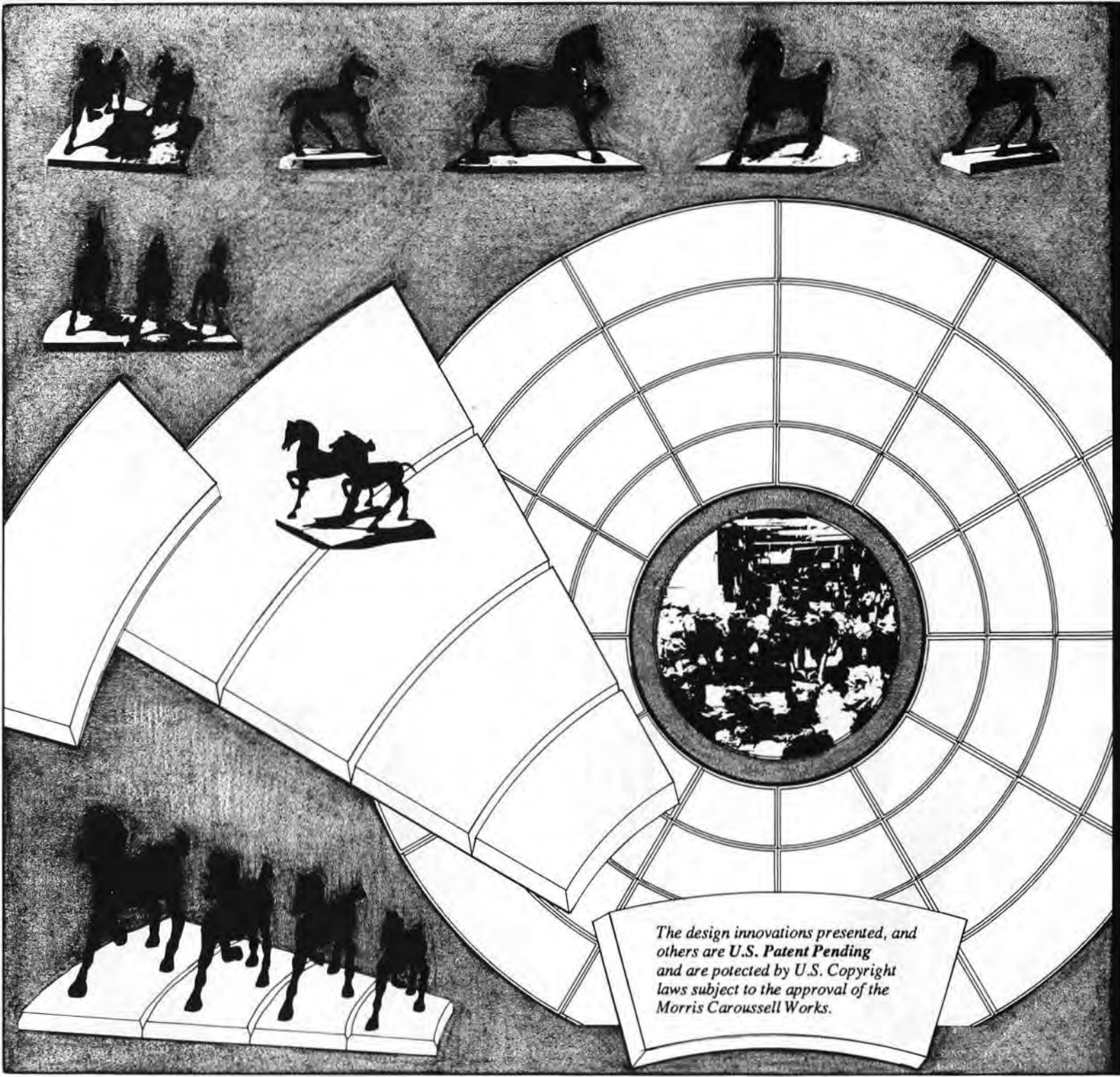
old or new. Proud parents still photograph their children as they ride, and every youngster races for the "up and down ones" on the second and third row. It is the end of an era, though, a time when preserving this art form requires a different approach for many carousels. For some, saving them will mean selling them. Each horse will be treasured wherever it eventually goes, although it will no longer go around in circles. To paraphrase the words of the old American folk song, "Thou art lost and gone forever, dreadful sorry Clementon."



This fine steed is one of the Fabricon fiberglass jumpers now on the carousel that replaced a wooden horse that was sold.



A cherub, playing a flute and sitting in a seashell, rides on the large chariot.



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# RECORD SET FOR ALUMINUM HORSES AT NORTON AUCTION

by  
Judy Benson

Cast aluminum horses that became the mainstay of the Allan Herschell Company after 1930 were never taken very seriously by carousel art collectors. On Saturday, September 8th in Geneseo, New York, Norton Auctioneers began a new chapter in the realm of carousel art collecting. The Michigan based auctioneers sold a 1950 model aluminum carousel piecemeal. Norton said this is the first time he has ever sold aluminum horses individually, but it is also the first time he has come across one of these machines with original factory paint.

The auction drew an audience of over 700 spectators with 300 bidders for the sale of the small family owned Long Point Park. The LaGrou family had started the park in 1949 with an old wooden merry-go-round, but once they saw that the lakeside park would be a success they sold the antique machine. Steven LaGrou drove up to the nearby Allan Herschell factory and bought a brand new aluminum merry-go-round for \$14,000. Each year the senior LaGrou, and later his son John, would carefully coat each horse with clear varnish to protect the original surface and ornamental decorations.

After 40 years the horses had acquired a



An outside row Allan Herschell horse in original 1950's factory paint shows the flowered design on the trappings and the unusual treatment of the painted eye.



Terry Hyland of Norton Auctioneers looks for bids on horses that sold for prices from \$1,200 to \$2,400.



Over 300 bidders and 700 spectators watched the 30 aluminum horses in original 1950's factory paint sell individually. The carousel was not offered as a whole as the owners wanted their horses that they had so diligently taken care of for 40 years to become loving parts of private collections.

deep mellow patina of yellow varnish. This yellow cast added to the antique look of the horses and undoubtedly contributed to the value of the figures. The family had tried to interest the Allan Herschell Carousel Factory Museum into taking the old merry-go-round as a donation several years ago. They were quite disappointed that the museum had no interest in aluminum ani-

mals at that time.

The LaGrou Family was so emotionally tied to the carousel they decided to ask David Norton to auction off the animals individually, in that way insuring that the horses they had so diligently cared for for 40 years would become loving parts of private collections. Mrs. LaGrou stated that she could not stand the thought of the horses

being sandblasted and going on the road with a carnival. The family was, of course, sad to see their park close, and very nervous about the outcome of the sale, especially for the merry-go-round.

Auctioneer David Norton and his red jacketed crew began the riveting auctioneers chant with one of the outside row horses. After a quick succession of bids Norton paused at \$1,000 and explained to the audience that this was going to be the "bargain" horse and that this first buyer was probably the smartest person here. Norton was indeed correct, as the horse sold for \$1,200 and was the lowest selling of the 30 figures. The top selling steed went for \$2,400, an astonishing sum considering most aluminum horses rarely bring over \$800. The total machine sold for \$51,600, which included \$4,500 for the frame. The 30 horses sold for an average of over \$1,500 each.

Carousel art dealer, collector and expert, Robert Kissel of Cincinnati, Ohio remarked on Norton's ability to sell carousel figures "No one can sell carousel horses like Dave! He is the best." Bob said he had just sold a truckload of aluminum jumpers for \$800 each, but it looks like there is now a new benchmark for the aluminum ponies.

The bidders had traveled from 15 states for a chance to buy one of the painted ponies. One gentlemen flew in from Florida to get one of the horses his daughter had ridden as a child. Many of the other horses went to locals who also has nostalgic feelings for the old merry-go-round. One couple came to buy a single horse to give to their son as a wedding gift, but went home with four!

Perhaps when determining the value of carousel horses it is important not only to evaluate the artistry of the creation, but also the strong value that collectors place on emotional and nostalgic feelings they may have for a particular animal or carousel.



The author, Judy Benson, right, discusses the new value of aluminum horses set at the Long Point Park auction with Bob Kissel who has an auction coming up on November 3 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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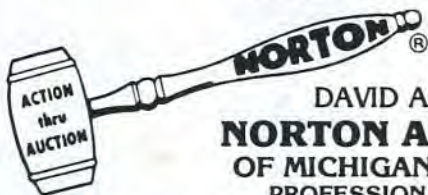
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## DANIEL'S DEN ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR ILLIONS SUPREME CAROUSEL WITH REPRODUCED ILLIONS FIGURES

John and Cathy Daniel of Daniel's Den in Pasadena, California, have announced a new project they are working on. In 1991 the replica of the M.C. Illions 1927 Supreme carousel will be operating in Gilroy, California. "Hecker Pass Family Adventure Park" is scheduled to open in 1992 at the present site of "Tree Haven" park, owned by Nob Hill Foods.

An old-time arcade, a small ferris wheel, a small kiddie Mangels machine and various other attractions are planned for the new park. Even before the announcement of the opening of a new theme park in Gilroy, the city was famous—it is known as the "Garlic Capital of the World."

During the American Carousel Society Convention in San Francisco, John Daniel presented a lecture and showed slides of the original carousel prior to restoration. He announced that there are plans to create two Supremes, and one of the possible uses for the second machine would be to offer both a ride and a museum in the round. The fiberglass carousel could be operated with the original wooden horses encircling the machine on display, allowing the visitor to appreciate the beauty of the antiques while still enjoying a ride on a reproduction. The rider would be able to step into the past while still observing it all around as the carousel revolves, offering a novel approach to preserving this art form while still being able to use it as it was originally intended. Everyone would benefit, and the original carved creations could be enjoyed by all without threat to this endangered species.

John and Cathy are the owners of the "American Beauty", the M.C. Illions 1927 rose horse which is featured on the cover of Painted Ponies. This famous horse is one of only three complete carvings of the lead horse on the Illions Supreme model carousel. There were only three Supreme carousels carved before the factory closed in 1927, and the rose horse is the most spectacular piece Illions created.

Built for the Prospect Hotel in Coney Island, New York, the carousel last operated at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in

1980. Barney Illions, M.C. Illions' son, had painted the horses on this machine in 1927. Multiple layers of additional park paint had preserved the popular and basswood carvings of the flowers on the rose horse, which attests to the theory that park paint is not always such a bad thing!

A number of the figures in the 48 horse 3 abreast collection are now being molded as fiberglass castings. Ron Perkins, who made the fiberglass horses for the Castle Park, California carousel, is fabricating these reproductions. Legs are reinforced with steel rods, and the horses are foam-filled for extra durability. Cathy Daniel explained that although the machine will be an Illions replica the newly cast horses will have a

slight variation from the original pieces, and become unique works of art in fiberglass. Works of art such as M.C. Illions' "American Beauty", may often be imitated, but never duplicated.

The original Supreme horses are being restored, using a cold strip bath. Jewel holes are filled and re-drilled to assure a secure fitting. Oil paints are used for the finished pieces which will remain in the Daniel's collection. Since oil paints do not hold up well in regular use on a park machine, the fiberglass pieces are being painted in automotive paints by Sue Hook. Each horse is given the same careful attention to detail and quality that the original wooden horses receive.

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# CHRISTIE'S

# Canobie Lake: New Hampshire's Treasure



Canobie Lake Park's beautiful 1906 carousel. This unusual machine has a collection of various carvers' works including some very early Dentzels and Looffs.

Story by Ann Duncan and Photos by Wayne Ulaky

April 15, 1990 was tax day to millions of Americans and Easter Sunday to countless others, but for the owners and workers of Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire, it was opening day, a ritual that has

been repeated at that location for more than eighty-four years.

Two days prior to that date the park was bustling with workers cleaning and polishing every surface, each bench had been

scrubbed, each ride was oiled and ready for the crowds that would stream to the gates from the surrounding Merrimac Valley, as well as from Boston and areas to the north.

Canobie (pronounced Cañ ã bē) Lake

Park has been an institution in Salem since 1902. Echoing the origin of many amusement parks, it was started by the Massachusetts Northeast Street Railway Company, whose marketing strategy was to employ on the weekends the machines and operators used to transport local textile and shoe factory workers each Monday through Friday. With the introduction of the automobile and the demise of the trolley car, the company went bankrupt, and the park was sold in the late 1920's to a single owner, Patrick Holland. He and then his son operated it successfully through the big band era, attracting such names as Artie Shaw and Glenn Miller to the Canobie Lake Park Ballroom. However, by the mid-fifties the park had become dusty and dilapidated, its popularity fading with the subsequent rise of television and rock and roll.

In 1958, the three families of Berni, Captell, and Ulaky, already familiar with the amusement business, invested in the run-down facility, and through keen business sense and an eye to the opening of the north/south interstate Route 93, have brought the park and its rides back to popularity and subsequent prosperity. It is now listed in the *Amusement Park Guidebook* (Reed, James W., Reed Publishing Co., New Holland, PA 1987) as one of fourteen parks cited as the most beautiful in the country. The criteria for selection is based



One of the nicest menagerie animals on the carousel is this mildly mannered Dentzel deer in the classic leaping pose with a deeply carved throat ruff and floating eagle back saddle.

on each park's blending of the landscaping, architecture, and general appearance with the natural beauty of the area.

One of the main attractions and an eye-

catcher as patrons walk through the front gate of the park is its unique carousel. Sixteen Dentzel standers, a Stein and Goldstein signature horse, a Dentzel signature lion, a Dentzel goat and deer, and three Loeff prancers make up the outside row. Two chariots and twenty-four assorted jumpers and standers, labelled by the National Carousel Association census as 11-lions-carved Loeffs, comprise the inner two rows.

(Continued on page 16)



Another Dentzel figure is a goat. He has not only an eagle back saddle but a tucked head and an open mouth with a comically protruding tongue.



A maniacal looking chariot driver rides on the back of each of the two chariots.



A signed Stein and Goldstein stander with a leopard skin blanket that appears to be pointing to the company name, adds to the speculation that the carousel was once a smaller machine with the outside row added later.

(Continued from page 15)

The carousel's origin has been difficult to trace. Dave Cook, a park employee whose particular interest is in the history and preservation of the carousel, has been running in its present location since at least 1906, but no papers exist to indicate where it came from or from whom it was purchased. The mechanism is attributed to the German carousel manufacturers Braun and Braun, and it is possible that the Braun family of nearby Lowell, Massachusetts once owned the carousel. When the transit company auctioned the park, the carousel was not on the auctioneer's list, but existing town records indicate the carousel may have been moved by horse and wagon to a storage facility prior to the auction. However, the carousel appears once again in park records under its second ownership, so the presumption is that it was bought as a separate entity and subsequently reinstated in the park in its original position.

A close examination of the carousel provides a bit of further evidence about its questionable past. Mr. Cook pointed out that the mechanism as well as the melange of figures on it point to its probably having been enlarged from a two-abreast machine to a three-abreast sometime in its history. The outer row standers are on a step-down platform; overhead beams supporting the mechanisms leading to that platform are of lesser width than the beams of the two inner rows, and the cleats joining the beams to

each other are different for those beams as well. Now electrically driven, the carousel was converted from steam at an unknown date. A large concrete block, somehow

The Carousel News & Trader, October, 1990

part of the original drive mechanism, still exists in the center housing. Uniquely, the present machinery drives a rubber tire against and around a steel rim, moving the carousel and its up-and-down mechanism for the enjoyment of young and old alike.

In the winter of 1972-3, a major overhaul of the entire carousel was undertaken by the present owners. All the carvings were removed and the wooden floor was replaced. The supports for the housing had been resting in sand; the building was lifted and a concrete floor was installed. Indicative of the primitive nature of the original housing, the center poles were found sitting on sawed-off telephone poles. At this time, each horse and menagerie carving was stripped of nine coats of paint. Unfortunately, care was not taken to ensure that the stripping was not injurious to the wood and glue. Dave Cook noted that the joints are still suffering as a result of that treatment. The animals were then repainted in typical park paint. Wayne Ulaky, son of one of the three original corporation owners, remembers working on the figures that winter. The assignment that he particularly recalls is that of painting the Dentzel lion. "It took me one week to paint it. I used an airbrush and gold leaf." He went on to say that being young and not especially attuned to the artistic carving skill behind each one until he spent the time on that lion. Now the owner responsible for publicity and public rela-



The star figure on the Canobie carousel is a Dentzel lion carved in an earlier style, it is also signed by Dentzel on its saddle blanket.



tions, he is well aware of the aesthetic as well as monetary value of the carousel figures; perhaps more importantly, he as well as his partners and many staff members are especially proud of their carousel and the magic it spins for each rider.

In 1986, the animals were again stripped but this time under the care of Brian Buckler, a park employee who came to Canobie with the demise of Paragon Park in Hull, Massachusetts. Mr. Buckler took the time and the concern to supervise the stripping of each figure by hand. Where restoration was necessary, he was responsible. As a cost-saving measure, hair tails were replaced with fiberglass, but not to the detriment of the over-all appearance of the figures. They today again ride the carousel in park paint, but the paint has been carefully applied with an eye to naturalism for the basic figure and with attractive colors for their trappings. No matter who the carver, the trappings of the majority of figures on this carousel are relatively simple, again attesting to its origin as a simple country carousel whose original owner maybe wanted to populate a mechanism that he already owned with the least expense possible.

Perhaps the star figure is the previously mentioned Dentzel lion, carved in the earlier style with a sharply raised head, aggressive stance, and menacing expression. Its significance lies in the signature on its saddle blanket; now outlined in gold, the name of



An outside row Dentzel stander proudly trots around the Canobie Lake Park carousel. His saddle is decorated with a deeply carved curlicue under the cantle.

Dentzel can still be felt as faintly raised even after the wear of many riders and the subsequent stripping and sanding. The two other menagerie figures are also classic Dentzel:

a mild mannered deer and an impressive goat. The deer is in the classic leaping pose with a deeply carved throat ruff and a floating eagle back saddle. The goat also sports an eagle back saddle, but with his slightly tucked head, open mouth, and comically protruding tongue, he is the more appealing of the two figures.

The presence of a signed Stein and Goldstein stander, the name and address of the firm proudly emblazoned on its side, adds to the evidence that Dave Cook cites supporting his speculation that this indeed was once a smaller machine to which the outside row had been added. Along with the requisite bared teeth, oversized buckle, and feathers is a leopard-pelt saddle with the head turned, fangs bared, eyes wide. The leopard's paw seemingly protects the trappings that bear the firm's name. One wonders at the marketing strategy of these Coney Island carvers. They were never known for carving figures that might appeal to the gentler side of the carousel rider, a reputation particularly evident in observing this animal. Did they specifically want to brand this horse as stylistically theirs?

Equally noteworthy are two Dentzel standers, each with an American shield on the breast plate. Park owners consider the white painted horse the lead horse, and when the carousel is featured in promotional material, that figure is chosen as representative. Both of these two horses

(Continued on page 18)



This rare Loeff prancer has a very interesting carving of a man with an elaborate mustache behind his double blanketed saddle.



This pair of wild horses appears to be pulling one of the beautiful chariots around the carousel without any help from the mechanism.

(Continued from page 17)

and the other outside row Dentzels are in the earlier style with full-bodied chests, prominent teeth, and deeply carved manes. Jewels are fastened to the trappings of the Dentzels with brass rosettes, as they are to all the other figures.

Three of the outer row prancers are Loofts with deeply carved manes. Two have heads of Roman soldiers carved at the cantle; the other has an eagle's head.

The inner row figures, with the exception of a pair of horses "pulling" one of the chariots, are simply carved early Loofts. The assortment of jumpers and standers are consistent with scalloped-edged trappings and unadorned saddle blankets. Several have the typical four-petalled flower at the cantle.

Both chariots are almost identical: two plunging steeds pull a single-handed Roman chariot. Teeth are bared, eyes look to the gods, and full manes wave in the wind. The driver pulls their reins in the opposite direction, wild determination etched in his face. Are these the original chariots or were they also an afterthought? The question begs an answer.

According to Dave Cook, no rounding boards or scenery panels were on the original carousel. At the time of the major overhaul, rounding boards painted by an amusement park outfitter in Italy were added to heighten the visual appeal of the simple machine. They depict American national treasures that would be familiar to almost anyone: the White House, Niagara Falls, Mt.

Rushmore, Williamsburg, and the Belvedere Fountain in Central Park to name a few. There were some primitive plaster and straw panels originally used in place of scenery panels. Those were removed and basic plaster scrolls were added in their place.

Because of the machine's simplicity, it is

up to the whirling animals and pulsing band organ to lure the rider away from the roller coaster, the water ride, the Dodgems, and all the other enticements the park offers. The music that coaxes a person to investigate its source emanates from a Wurlitzer 153 band organ which left the park for a major overhaul two years ago. With over 100 rolls to choose from, care is taken that the rolls are changed daily; rarely is a tune repeated. With a twinkle in his eye Mr. Cook tells of his tendency to play Christmas tunes on the doggiest day in August.

Despite the lack of ornate detail or specific pedigree, this carousel manages very well to do today what it has done for so many years, carry the people who board its platform and climb onto the huge lion or the funny goat or the exciting jumper into a world away from the mundane and the worrisome. Luckily for all, owner Wayne Ulaky and concerned employee Dave Cook will keep it spinning for future generations. Mr. Ulaky and his co-owners are committed to the continued maintenance and improvement of a park once thought to be a has-been. Mr. Cook, with his abiding interest in park and carousel history, hopes to have the carousel named as an historical landmark. Even without official designation, it has achieved landmark status already for countless great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents. Children of diverse generations can still experience the thrill and abandon of whirling through the air astride a magical beast, the music of the band organ pulsating in their ears.



In a nostalgic look at the past this 1948 photo shows children enjoyed the Canobie Lake Park carousel as much back then as they do today.

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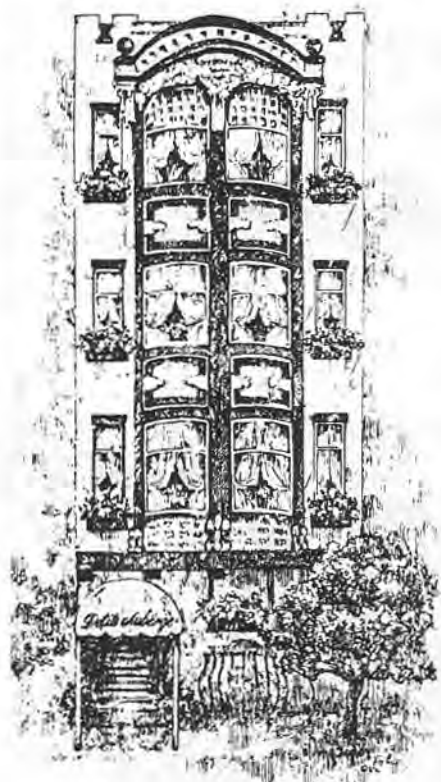
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Although each inn has an antique carousel horse in the lobby, the similarities



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Also in Pacific Grove is the Green Gables Inn, a 1888 Queen Anne style mansion and is just steps from Cannery Row, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Lover's Point Beach. The five bedrooms and two-room suite in the main house and the five bedrooms in the carriage house are decorated with soft colors, cozy quilts, and assorted pillows. Breakfast and tea is served in the oceanfront parlor or the living room.

In the quaint village of Carmel-by-the-Sea you can find the hideaway, the Cobblestone Inn. Each country decorated room comes complete with a fireplace, telephone, private bath, color television and refrigerator. The Inn is only two blocks from the many shops and restaurants in downtown Carmel. Tea, sherry, wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres are available in the main living room in front of the large stone fireplace. The accommodations include twenty-four rooms.

The White Swan Inn combines the deluxe service of a grand hotel with the charming serenity of an English Garden Inn. Located in San Francisco the Inn offers a concierge, valet parking, laundry service and turndown service. Guests are surrounded by warm woods, hunting prints and handsome antiques which fill the living room,

The Carousel News & Trader, October, 1990

dining room, conference room and library with a London flair. The twenty-six rooms all have a fireplace, wet bar, large private bath and color television.

The Petite Auberge is also in San Francisco but with romantic French decor and just a stone's throw from the famous theatre district and exclusive shopping area. Each of the twenty-six guest rooms is decorated with soft pastel peach and blue French themes.

The Marina Inn is just two blocks from the San Francisco Bay, and nearby is the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, Union Street, and Ghirardelli Square. This large forty room four-story Victorian hotel was built in 1924. Guests will find chocolates on their pillows in the pine furnished rooms decorated in dusty rose, hunter green and pale yellow.

The latest addition to the Four Sisters group is the Blue Lantern Inn of Dana Point in southern California. This newest inn offers some special features such as sun-decks, jacuzzi tubs, fireplaces, hairdryers, stereos, and computer hook-ups. This Inn has a Cape Cod theme that is reflected in its soft sea colors, hand-made quilts, a shell collection and beautiful furnishings. The twenty-nine rooms offer a spectacular view of the coast since the inn sits on a bluff above the yacht harbor.

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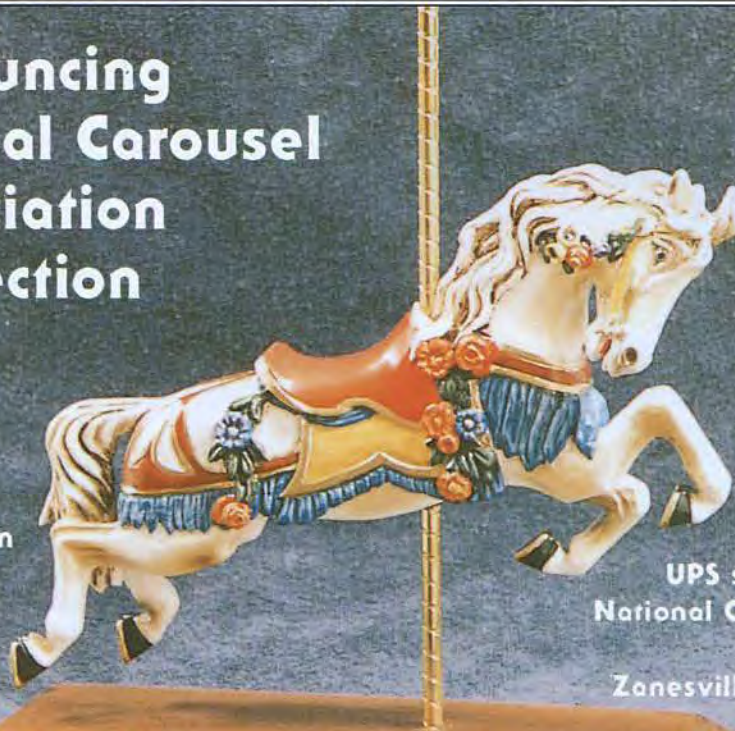
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Photo by Bruce Veatch

# THE PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL AND THE ELUSIVE HENRY PAUL

by Emmy Donohue

Information and photographs supplied to Emmy Donohue of Americana Antiques by Gray Tuttle



This lion currently aboard Prospect Park is from the Henry Paul machine. It is not a Carmel lion. The realistic and intricately carved full mane contrasts with the rather chunky look and protruding teeth. The photo on the right is the most recent; the lion being found in this paint by Will Morton who is restoring the Prospect Park Carousel. The original Carmel lion was removed from the machine, sold privately, and replaced with this "Henry Paul" lion.



This standing deer with no horns (the original horns were probably broken off) has a sad, doleful look. The fur is well carved, but the body and neck are chunky and thick.

**T**he history of Prospect Park Carousel in Brooklyn, New York, is the story of two separate carousels from very different origins. The machine itself began life in Coney Island as a three-abreast Nunley-Murphy carousel with Carmel figures aboard (and not a Mangels carousel as is commonly thought). It was owned by the well known McCullough family who owned several other Coney Island carousels, including the one now known as B&B, also now in Brooklyn.

The second carousel was a menagerie machine placed somewhere in upstate New York. The exact location is unknown, but it was believed to have been somewhere near Lake Ontario. Its origin and pedigree are also unknown. The only clue to its identity was a maker's plate on the frame identifying the machine as a Henry Paul.

The figures aboard this second carousel are truly unique and have



This wonderful Henry Paul tiger is in a unique stance. It appears as if surprised while stalking some imaginary prey. Note the tightly curled tail, raised left front paw, and head turned to the side. This figure was sold privately and never used on the Prospect Park Carousel.

never been identified as the work of any known carver. While some of the details on the figures are realistically portrayed and well executed, they appear overall rather chunky and unsophisticated—although there is a definite charm to their simplicity. Similarities in the trappings and other details suggest they may have been carved by the same hand, although no other similar figures appear on any known or existing carousels.

Leonard McCullough purchased this menagerie carousel some time in the early 1950's and dismantled it. About the same time, he moved his Nunley-Murphy carousel from Coney Island to its present location in Brooklyn. He then added a fourth row to the formerly three-abreast machine and used many of the one-of-a-kind menagerie figures from the second carousel to fill in the empty spaces. The

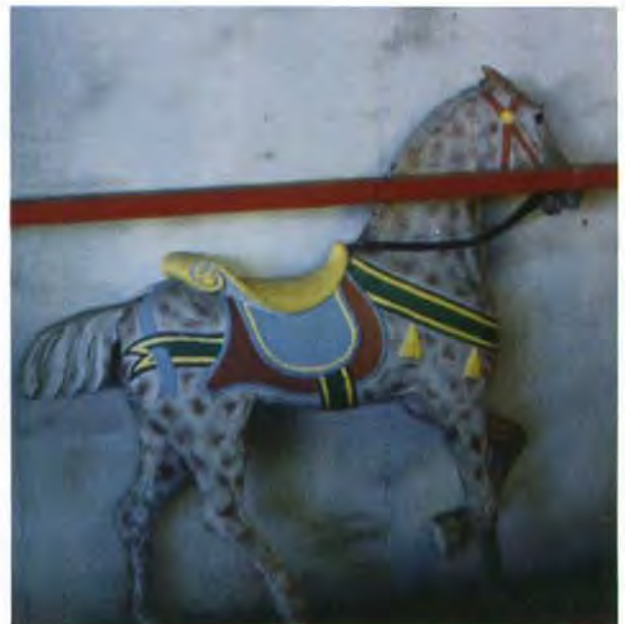
original Carmel lion was removed from the machine, sold privately, and replaced with the "Henry Paul" lion (mistakenly identified as a Carmel lion on bottom of p. 172 of *Painted Ponies*). In addition, the tiger, and kangaroo were sold to a private collector. The whereabouts of the other figures not placed aboard the Prospect Park machine is unknown.

Who was this elusive Henry Paul? All that is known about him to date is that he once supervised frame assembly at the Dentzel factory (see P. 58, Fred Fried's *A Pictorial History Of The Carousel*). From the maker's plate on the Upstate New York carousel, it can be assumed that he was in business for himself at some point. Further evidence which supports this assumption was a rounding board

(Continued on page 25)



The outside row size ostrich from the Henry Paul machine (right) is shown here in comparison to the standard size Dentzel ostrich (left). The feather carving is detailed and well executed. (Also see page 47 TCN&T, September, 1990) This figure was sold privately and never placed on the Prospect Park machine.



A unique standing horse with cropped or roached mane from the Henry Paul machine. The style is simple and unsophisticated. The trappings resemble those of the E. Joy Morris horses.



Left: A Henry Paul goat on the Prospect Park carousel. Although its horns are broken, the remaining portion of the horns indicate that they too, were tightly curled on the top of the head. This example has a less menacing pose, a similar long face, and longer curlier fur.



### THE PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL AND THE ELUSIVE HENRY PAUL

"Henry Paul" goat, one of three placed aboard Prospect Park. This goat has its head down in a butting position and has a similar long face and small ears to the prancing deer. The horns are tightly curled on top of the head. Fur detail is excellent.



One of the three goats on the Prospect Park carousel. This prancing goat has fancier trappings and a different fur treatment. The head is still long and pointed, and the horns tightly curled. Behind the saddle is a coil with two dogs' heads, one on each side.



Three standing giraffes from the Henry Paul machine, shown aboard the Prospect Park machine. These figures appear more sophisticated than many of the other figures. Two resemble early Philadelphia Toboggan Company giraffes and the other a Dentzel giraffe (right).





A rounding board with original paint once aboard the Indian Trails Dentzel carousel in the Pennsylvania Poconos shows the same tiger as pictured on page 23. There was also a scenery panel on the carousel which bore the name of "Henry Paul".

once aboard Indian Trails carousel in the Pennsylvania Poconos. It shows what has to be the identical tiger to the Henry Paul tiger pictured in this article. There was also a scenery panel on Indian Trails which bore the name of Henry Paul. Whether Henry Paul carved his own figures or purchased them elsewhere is at this point, anybody's guess. Fred Fried and Marge Swenson point out similarities between these figures and early E. Joy Morris or Philadelphia Toboggan Company figures, but there is no conclusive proof.

Hopefully, more information will come to light about this carousel builder in the future, as was the case with E. Joy Morris. But for now, we attribute these unique figures to Henry Paul, if only for lack of a better alternative.

Most of these unique figures are also pictured in the appropriate issues of *Carousel Art* (Numbers 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 33) as maker unknown. The Henry Paul rounding board with the tiger appears on page 59, *Carousel Art*, No. 6.

(More photos on page 26)



A prancing deer with wood horns. This fur detail is well executed; the horns appear to be those of a young buck in the "velvet stage". The head is long and thin, the ears small. It is currently being offered for sale by carousel dealer, Jim Aten of Oregon.



This one-of-a-kind kangaroo from the Henry Paul machine was sold privately and never placed on the Prospect Park machine. (See actual picture in *Carousel Art* # 33, page 5.

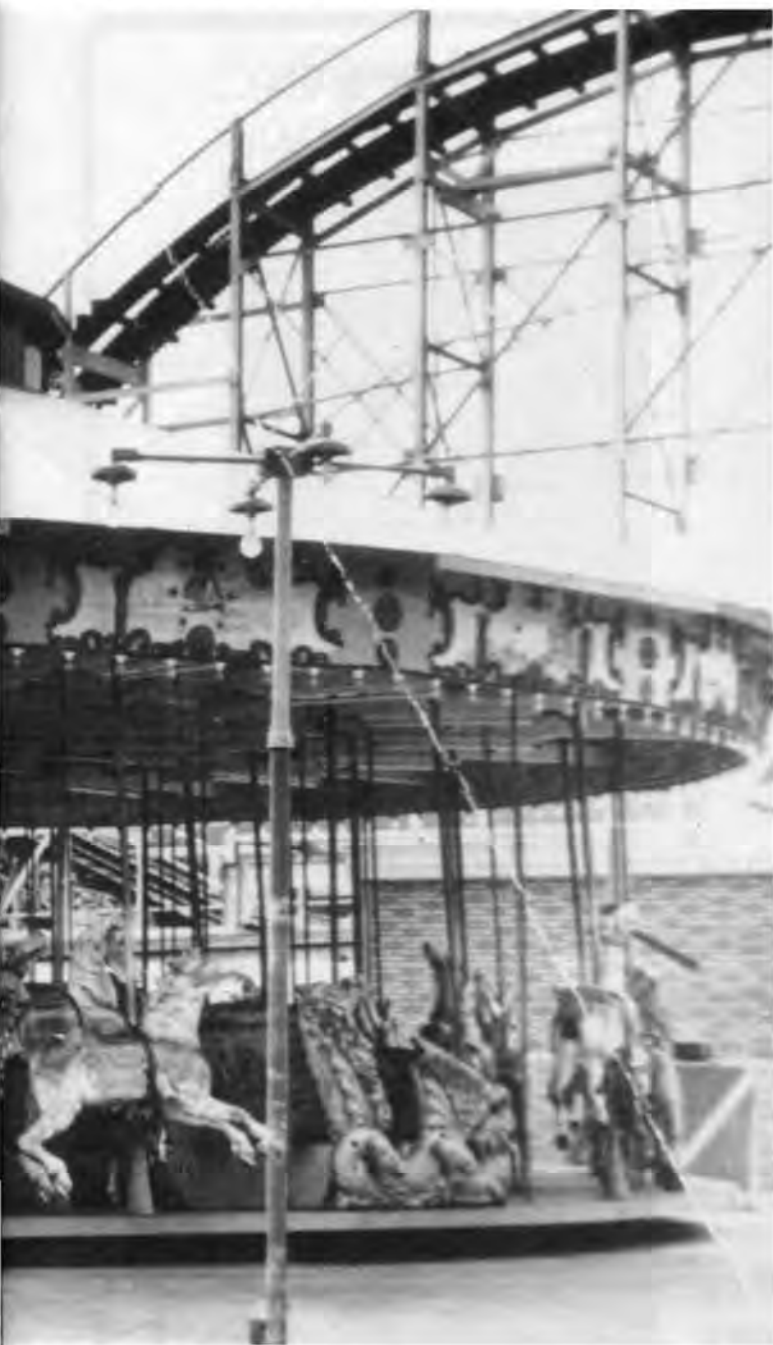


The Prospect Park carousel began life in Coney Island as a three-abreast Nunley-Murphy carousel with Carmel figures aboard (not a Mangels carousel as is commonly thought). This photograph was taken in the early 1950's with the famous Cyclone Roller Coaster in the background. It was owned by the well-known McCullough family who owned several other Coney Island carousel including the B & B, also now in Brooklyn. Later, McCull-



## THE PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL AND THE ELUSIVE HENRY PAUL (Continued from page 25)

The Carmel lion originally aboard the McCullough's Coney Island Machine was sold privately to Gray Tuttle when the carousel was moved to Brooklyn. It is currently in the Tuttle Collection.



ough moved this carousel to its present location at Prospect Park in Brooklyn and added a fourth row comprised of figures from the Henry Paul machine he had previously purchased. The original Carmel lion was removed, sold privately and replaced with the Henry Paul lion. Some of the other Henry Paul figures not needed for the carousel were sold. The whereabouts of the other figures not placed on Prospect Park is unknown.

**For further reference see these Issues of *Carousel Art***

- Kangaroo ..... #33 ..... p.5
- Ostrich ..... #15 ..... p.7
- Giraffes ..... #13 ..... p.27
- Prancing Deer ..... #11 ..... p.34
- Standing Deer ..... #11 ..... p.33
- Goats ..... #9 ..... p.28
- Carmel Lion ..... #7 ..... p.7
- Tiger ..... #21 ..... p.20
- Rounding Board ..... #6 ..... p.58

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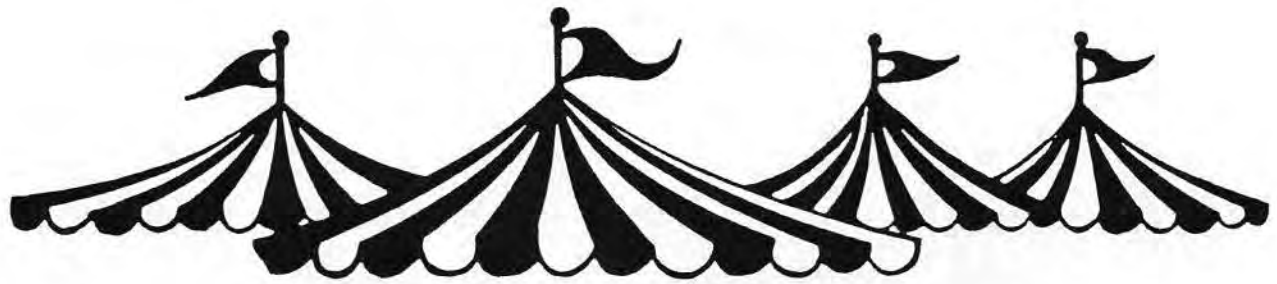
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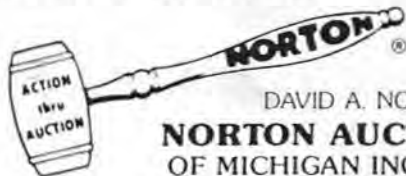
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*The old lady sat on a bench in the park  
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A warm, summer breeze gently tousled her hair  
as it slipped through the lace of her veil.*

*To those who happened to see her,  
she looked like simply one more  
of the little old ladies who came there to dream  
of childhood and ponies and home.*

*The carousel slowed, and through misty blue eyes,  
she focused on one of the deer.  
"Ah, I remember you well!" the old lady thought,  
as time dropped away year by year.*

*She recalled a spring day much like the one now  
and a place not so far from this spot.  
"You turned out so well!" she thought with a smile,  
"And how regal! I'd almost forgot."*

*She remembered a hand so firm and adept,  
she remembered his eyes and his grin.  
She wondered again how gentle a man  
could manhandle wood like he did.*

*The cramped little place where the dream first began  
had grown to encompass the block;  
And creatures came forth to thrill young and old,  
and cause all the neighbors to talk.*

*"But time passes swiftly", she thought with a sigh,  
"And we held them so lightly, those years that passed by.  
Now, all that I have to remind me of you  
and these wonderful steeds on the bright carousel."*

*The band organ sounded its clarion call.  
Sweet children came laughing to ride.  
The ponies paraded in splendor and grace,  
perfection in three-quarter time.*

*And, as each came round on its circular path  
his eyes seemed to look straight at her;  
The little old lady who sat in the park  
close by the bright carousel.*

Donna Swanson 1990



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# AVID CAROUSEL COLLECTORS IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

By Jerry Betts

The love of art, medicine and science brought Chris and Med Lutmerding together while both were in Dayton, Ohio attending the University of Dayton. Chris has her BS degree in biology and her MS in plant physiology and is a nuclear medicine technologist. Med went on to become an MD at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He is a partner in Emergency Services Inc., which services emergency room staffs at hospitals.

Chris has always loved horses of all kinds and Med has been interested in antiques. When he was doing his residency, they bought a little metal horse and pony cart for their apartment in Columbus. In 1978, they bought a copy of "A Pictorial History of the Carousel" and really became interested in the art form.

A few years later, Chris attended Jerry Betts' show, "The Art, History and Fun of the Carousel" at Worthington Methodist Church. She met other carousel enthusiasts there and that evening Med called her from Detroit and said he had just bought an Allan Herschell horse from Al Rappaport! This was the beginning of exciting times for the Lutmerdings!

They attended the 1985 NCA convention in Michigan and really got hooked! They also were at the Pittsburgh convention and started going to auctions and reading more books on the subject. About this time, they met master artist, Tony Orlando of Dearborn, Michigan and a new friendship began. They were impressed with Tony's accuracy and precise work and found that, "He really took a personal interest in us and our horse. He became a good friend to our children and taught them some of the techniques of stripping and painting of carousel figures." Next, Tony called them and said he found a



The Lutmerding's own a small metal, black pony and cart.



This fancy piebald Allan Herschell roached mane Trojan horse is from Onancock, Virginia and restored by Tony Orlando.

"basket case" Spillman at an antique shop and would they be interested? Of course, they were and they had Tony restore that horse and the one they purchased from Al.

At a Norton auction, they purchased a roached-mane Allan Herschell horse from the firemen's carousel at Onancock, Virginia. When Tony restored this horse, he remarked how well detailed it was and the glass eye was very unusual—even with the white-of-the-eye. All the horses on that machine had glass eyes and were in good shape since the carousel was only run for a short time each year.

The next purchase was a C.W. Parker horse from the Bill Hames shows at Fort Worth, Texas. This horse has two fish at the rear of the saddle and a dragon's head in front of the saddle. This Parker and a Limonaire pig are now at Tony's studio being restored. The Limonaire brothers did make some carousels in France (see Fairground Art) but were better known for their fine band organs, since they worked in the Gavioli factory before going into business for themselves.

Their home has some kind of carousel decorations in every room with a nice col-

lection of miniatures in the dining room. They are both well studied in carousel art and keep photo books on every machine they visit and photograph. Each visit is documented with pictures and a detailed description.

Med is collecting older model-building kits of old airplanes, cars, figures and just about anything that was available in kit-form from hobby shops. This includes both wooden and plastic models. Both he and Chris enjoy collecting old toys and they are liberally displayed among the carousel "goodies" throughout the house.

Chris is a dedicated volunteer at the Columbus Zoo. This zoo has become famous across the country for conservation and breeding of endangered species. They have even participated in breeding loans with zoos from foreign countries. Chris uses this same philosophy in talking with people about preserving carousel art. "This too, is an endangered species, but you can't breed antique carousel figures. We must carefully preserve what is left, especially on operating carousels". She recognizes the great talents of the newer carvers and feels they will reach high prominence in their own



This is another pinto Spillman horse with a real hair tail, purchased by Chris and Med Lutmerding and restored by tony Orlando.

right. Chris has seen the achievements of Bob Curley, Joe Leonard, Kristy Gardiner and Art Ritchie as coming into their own as fine, contemporary carvers. "Reproductions are important but so is the new expression of carving put out by these people". Since Chris is an accomplished artist also, this is a real compliment.

As an extension of her volunteer work, Chris also does many special projects of artwork for the Columbus Zoo. She studied art at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., when she lived in Maryland. Her favorite mediums are pencil drawings, charcoal and oil paintings.

## CHRISTIE'S PRODUCES VIDEO OF HERSCHELL-SPILLMAN CAROUSEL

Christie's auction house has produced a ten minute video that gives a brief essay of the history of carousels and their recent artistic appreciation. The video also shows in detail the horses and menagerie animals on the 1916 Herschell-Spillman carousel that they are offering at auction on October 18th. There are many great closeup shots of the carving details on these figures.

For more information about the auction or the video call 212-606-0543.

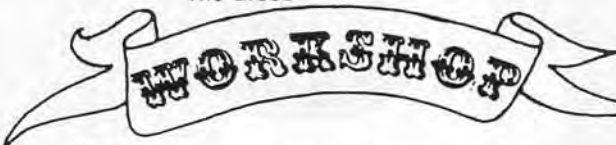
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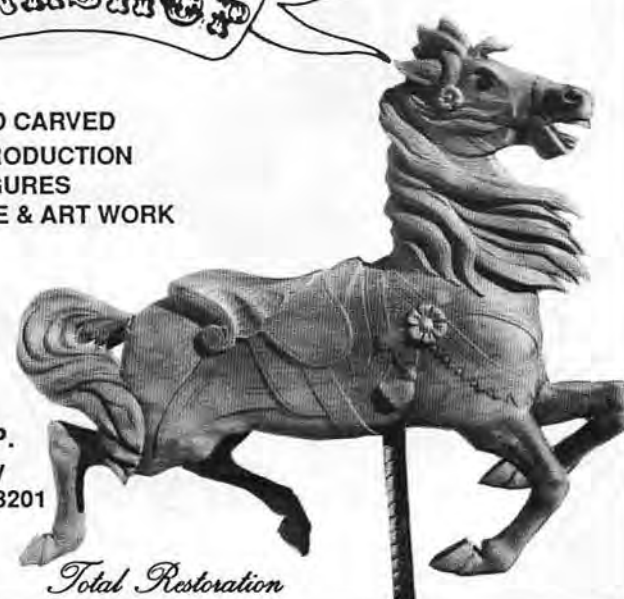
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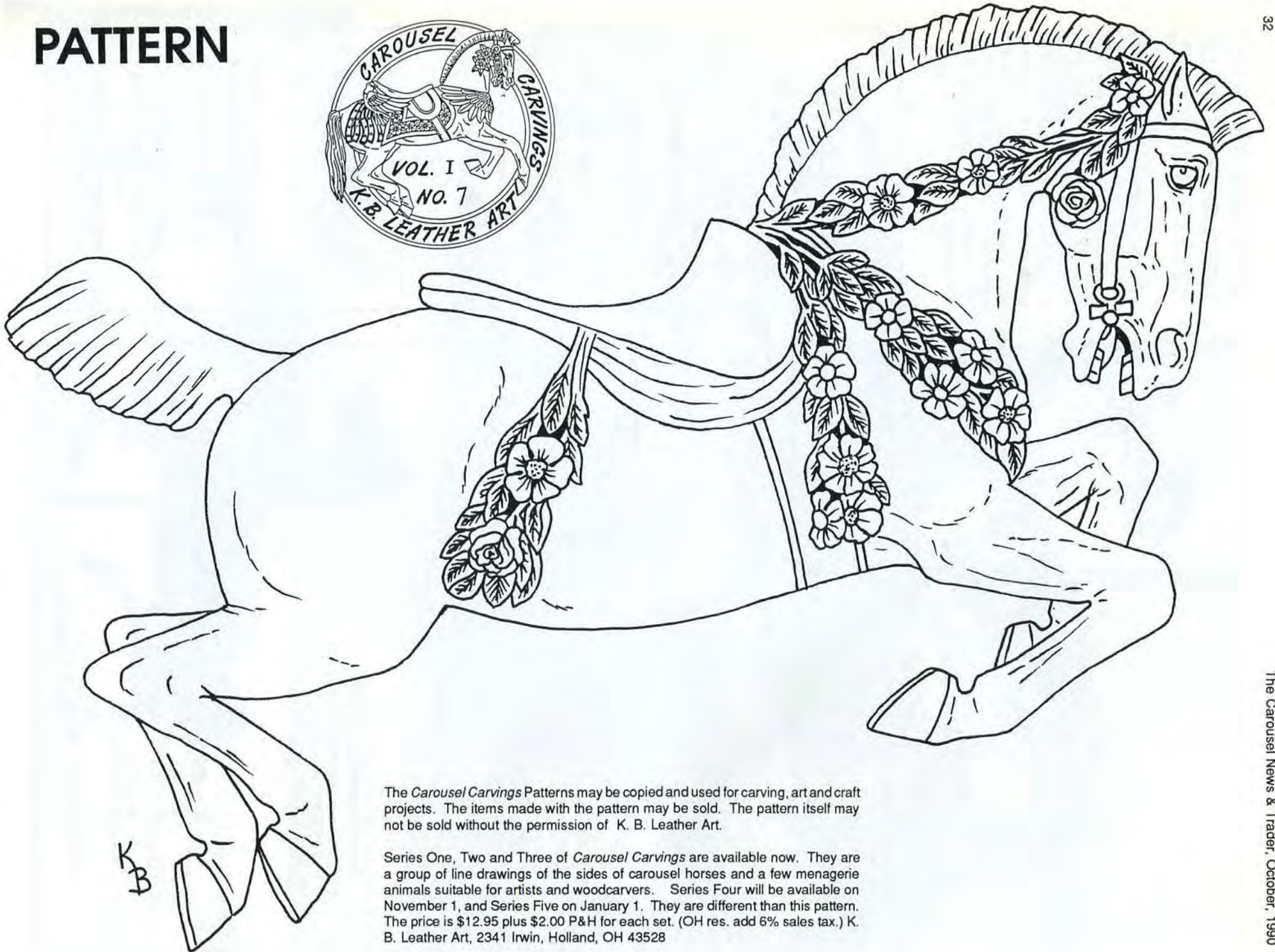


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Series One, Two and Three of *Carousel Carvings* are available now. They are a group of line drawings of the sides of carousel horses and a few menagerie animals suitable for artists and woodcarvers. Series Four will be available on November 1, and Series Five on January 1. They are different than this pattern. The price is \$12.95 plus \$2.00 P&H for each set. (OH res. add 6% sales tax.) K. B. Leather Art, 2341 Irwin, Holland, OH 43528

# ORGAN NOTES



Organ builder, Don Stinson presents a plaque to Freda Betts in honor of her late husband, Jerry Betts. The plaque reads "Stinson Organ Co. of Bellefontaine, Ohio dedicates our complete series of made JB-66 Carousel Organs to the memory of Jerry R. Betts whose help, kindness and friendship shall never be forgotten."

## Stinson Unveils New JB-66 Series Organs at Chillicothe ABOA Rally

A special event took place at the American Band Organ Association rally held at Chillicothe, Ohio the weekend of September 7-8th. Don Stinson, a well known and respected band organ builder from Bellefontaine, Ohio, unveiled the first organ in the new JB-66 series of Stinson organs. These organs are a tribute to a very special person to the band organ and carousel world. The "JB" stands for the late Jerry Betts and the "66" denotes the year that Jerry and Don met. These organs are Don's way of showing how much this friendship meant to him and as a way to honor Jerry for his great dedication and influence to band organs and carousels.

These organs were specifically designed for use with operating carousels which would certainly have pleased Jerry. However, considering the great sound produced by this organ it certainly will have great acceptance among all enthusiasts. The organs are approximately the same size as Wurlitzer 153's and they play Wurlitzer 150 rolls. They can be ordered with either single or duplex spool frames.

On hand to share in the event was Jerry's wife, Freda Betts who was honored to receive from Don Stinson a plaque dedicating this series of organs to the memory of Jerry.

Dear Carousel News & Trader Readers,

I am writing to express my thanks and gratefulness to all of you for your love and support in thought, words and prayers at the time of our very great loss of my husband and our father Jerry R. Betts.

I know it has been several months but it

is very difficult to function and to think at times, but as you begin to heal and try to put your life back together you realize there are those who have helped in the process.

I had hoped to personally respond to each of you but found it impossible. Also, many of you contributed to the Columbus Carousel Fund in Jerry's memory. We are

very grateful and hope that the restoration of the Wyandot Lake Carousel here in Columbus will be successful, as he was trying so hard to raise the funds for its restoration.

To all of you our heartfelt thanks, and may God bless each of you.

Sincerely  
Freda, Brad and Dru Betts



Proving that patriotism is very much in style, the Knott's Berry Farm Lagoon Dentzel carousel rounding board panel depicting an eagle carrying an American flag and laurel leaves over the ocean stole the show at \$23,000.

## Bud Hurlbut Collection Sells for \$2.3 Million

**Two complete carousels plus additional figures  
were dispersed to individual buyers at the  
Norton Auctioneers of Michigan Inc. auction in Anaheim, California.**



Two Dentzel flag horses were auctioned with each bringing \$62,500, tying for the second highest selling animal in the sale.

Although auctions of carousel art are held fairly frequently on the East coast, it has been several years since California has had one. The August 25, 1990 auction offered Californians (as well as many who traveled from all across the U.S.) an opportunity to purchase some excellent pieces of carousel Americana.

The collection was that of Wendell "Bud" Hurlbut, who once owned and operated the rides at nearby Knott's Berry Farm. Hurlbut also owns and operates Castle Amusement Park in Riverside, California, where many of the additional Dentzel and PTC pieces offered at the auction hailed from. Both Knott's Berry Farm and Castle Amusement Park still operate carousels, although the animals on the Castle Park machine have been replaced with fiberglass models.

The complete 1905 Gustav A. Dentzel machine offered for sale had been in storage for 5 years after operating at Knott's Berry Farm Lagoon for over 30 years. A total of 54 animals made up the carousel, which included a full menagerie and 29 horses, as well as 18 each of the shields, rounding boards and mirrors. The other carousel offered was Philadelphia Tobog-





The Norton Auctioneers of Michigan Inc. team: Left to right, John Schowalter, Terry Hyland, Dan Ward, Chris Norton, John Gladstone, Dan Satow, David Norton on podium, Arnie Vix and "Doc" Horton.

## By Noreene M. Sweeney

gan Company #31, built in 1914. This machine was no longer complete, as 21 horses were missing, although the two chariots were included. The carousel had been in storage since 1979, and last operated at Indian Lake in Russel's Point, Ohio. Both carousels also included two 40 foot trailer vans, which were offered separately if there were no buyers for the machines, animals and trailers in their entirety.

Lined around the walls of the 700 seat convention center room stood the entire Dentzel carousel on the left, and the PTC on the right, with a few of the exceptional Dentzel figures displayed on the stage. The back of the auditorium displayed a variety of Dentzel and other figures, such as the William Dentzel lion from Castle Park, two Herschell-Spillman dogs, an armored Parker and a large restored Heyn stander. The pieces ranged in condition from old park paint, to recent restorations, to dark and aging varnish, to figures such as the Dentzel pig in a candy apple maroon/red primer.

Approximately 700 people attended the auction from all over the country with about 200 registering to bid for an opportunity to

(Continued on page 37)

## COVER

The highest selling figure at the California auction was the 1903 "Cherni" Dentzel lion from the former Knott's Berry Farm Lagoon carousel. It sold for \$76,000. Photo: William Manns



Owner, Bud Hurlbut stands with the lion and tiger from the Castle Park Carousel at Riverside, California. They have been replaced with fiberglass figures. The lion sold for \$42,500, and the tiger for \$49,000.



David Norton auctions an elaborately carved horse from the Philadelphia Toboggan Company #31 carousel . It was the highest selling one from the PTC carousel at \$22,000.

All of the animals, including this fancy outside row horse from the PTC #31 carousel, were mounted on display stands provided by Dave Boyle of New Castle, Pennsylvania. The stands could be bought separately.



Tom and Kimberly Wolf bought a jumping deer that will ride their antique Dentzel carousel at Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. They also bought a band organ to use as a back-up for their Gavioli band organ.



A large restored German Heyn stander mounted on a special Knott's Berry Farm stand sold for \$32,500, setting a new world record for a Heyn carving sold at auction here and in Europe.



The Dentzel tiger from the Knott's Berry Farm Lagoon carousel was the third highest selling figure at \$57,500.

own one of these great figures. Many of the bidders were new to carousel art and hoped to leave owning a horse. Some who had grown up with the Knott's carousel were looking for a piece of nostalgia. Bud Hurlbut provided a popcorn machine and free popcorn to add to the festive atmosphere in the auction hall.

David Norton, CEO of Norton Auctioneers, Inc., opened the auction promptly at 10:00 a.m. by announcing that all pieces being offered held no reserves and there was no buyers premium, "Everyone has the same chance to win their prize today." He gave the order of the sale which was to sell the complete Dentzel machine from Knott's Berry Farm Lagoon first, piece by piece, than totaling that up and offering it as a complete unit. They would then sell the miscellaneous figures that were part of the Hurlbut collection. This would be followed by the PTC figures and machine. Norton then hit the ground running, coaxing the audience into out-bidding one another on the Dentzel flag horse which brought \$62,500. This was followed by a 1903 "Cherni" Dentzel lion which was the high selling figure for the auction at \$76,000. The third figure was a Dentzel tiger that sold for \$57,500.

There were a variety of participants in the room, from the anxious first-time buyer to the seasoned collector who feigned a casual disinterest as he strolled past the pieces he intended to bid on. All the while during the auction, people milled around the room, waiting for their favorites to reach the stage or grieving over missed opportunities.

Next to sell were two Dentzel standers,

one with an eagle saddle for \$37,500 and one with a "Colonial Dandy" on the side at \$52,000. The first Dentzel jumping deer "restored" brought \$19,500. There were two more deer which sold for \$16,000 and \$19,000 with Tom and Kim Wolf purchasing the rare Dentzel deer in old park paint. This particular deer is special because it will actually go back on a carousel; the Wolf's 1920 Dentzel which they operate at Dolly-

wood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Sue Hegarty purchased the other jumping deer for the American Carousel Museum, as well as a Dentzel cat for \$39,000. The cat is especially appropriate for San Francisco, renown for its Fishermen's Wharf, as it carries a crab in its mouth. The remaining cats brought \$29,500 and \$33,000. Other menagerie figures included a giraffe at \$32,000 and a prancing dark brown goat bearing a ribbon on the pommel of his saddle for \$19,500. The ever-popular rabbits sold for \$34,000 to \$37,500 in old park paint. A bear in old park paint sold for \$24,500, and one in dark brown lacquer-like primer with a chain harness brought \$20,500.

The outer row horses brought from \$22,000 to the \$62,500 that was fetched for each of the flag horses. There were some affordable Dentzel horses there, as the inner row jumpers sold from \$7,500 to \$9,500.

Bidding continued as one by one the 54 animals were auctioned and then the scenery panels, rounding boards, mirrors and shields. One of the best buys at the sale were the inner scenery panels which sold for \$2,000 for all 18 of them. The mirrors brought from \$250 to \$500 with the shields selling from \$600 to \$1,500. One of the surprises of the auction was the prices paid for the rounding boards. The low selling one sold for \$950 while a record setting \$23,000 was paid for a panel with an eagle carrying an American flag, proving that patriotism is very much in style. Some of the other rounding boards that sold higher than

(Continued on page 38)



A Gavioli Duplex Band Organ sold for \$25,000 at the Norton auction of the Bud Hurlbut Collection.

## Bud Hurlbut Collection Sells for \$2.3 Million

(Continued from page 37)

expected were one with a hen and rooster for \$4,000, one with a peacock for \$5,000, one with a St. Bernard for \$4,750 and one with a bison for \$2,200. The remaining rounding boards were in the \$1,000 to \$1,500 range.

They then offered the 40 foot semi-trailer with the Dentzel carousel frame and mechanism in it, and received a bid of \$85,000. A second 40 foot trailer that was racked for the animals sold for \$22,500.

Once bidding was completed on all of the pieces of the 1905 Dentzel, a final purchase price for the entire lot was calculated. Tension in the room mounted and then the crowd hushed in anticipation. It was then announced that the total individual bids for the Dentzel machine added up to \$1,384,250. This was a new record for a carousel selling piece by piece, without a buyers premium. It should also be noted that this was a three row machine while some other carousels in this price range were four row machines. After adding a ten percent premium it would take a bid of \$1,522,675 to buy this magnificent Dentzel carousel as a complete unit. Tension in the room mounted and the crowd hushed as David Norton announced these figures and opened the floor for any possible buyer that would come forth and keep this carousel

together. After giving plenty of opportunity and the old auctioneers, "going once, twice, going three times", (and even a three-and-one-half), there was no one to come forth, so instead of one winner there were many different ones, each eager to claim their prize.

Next came the miscellaneous figures from the Hurlbut collection which included another Dentzel flag horse that also sold for \$62,500. A very unique restored Heyn stander that sold for \$32,500 was on a special stand that had a Knott's Berry Farm plaque on the side of it. There was also another Dentzel tiger that brought \$49,000 and a lion brought \$42,500. (For additional prices of figures in this group see list, lots 110 to 145.)

PTC #31 was then auctioned off, beginning with the chariots which brought \$10,000 and \$13,000 each. Many of the Philadelphia Toboggan Company horses were extremely creative with carvings of cherubs, floral arrangements, and a few with unique knotted tails. The highest selling PTC horse was lot 148, a stander with a knotted tail that sold for \$22,000. Other standers sold from \$11,000 to \$19,500 while the inner row horses brought from \$5,000 to \$8,000. Some of these horses were offered with stands, thanks to Dave Boyle from New Castle,

The Carousel News & Trader, October, 1990

Pennsylvania who generously worked with his crew the day before the auction putting all the figures without stands on stands for the auction. This made for a much better view of the individual figures. Dave Boyle had stands available for those buying figures which did not include the stands.

The PTC scenery panels and mechanism were offered as a unit and was still packed in a 40 foot trailer. This ended up being one of the better buys of the sale as this unit only sold for \$2,500 with trailer.

The PTC machine was then offered as a complete unit with the individual bids adding up to \$328,500. Adding the ten percent it would have taken a bid of only \$361,500 to buy this machine intact, but no buyer came forward for it. (Not all the figures were available for this machine so it would not have been a complete carousel.)

It was then time to sell the band organs, with a Wurlitzer 125 Band Organ bringing \$6,000 and a Gavioli Duplex Organ selling for \$25,000.

Once all of the horses, menagerie, rounding boards, shields, trailers, etc. were auctioned off, attention was turned to the back of the room. Castle Park mutascopes were auctioned off next, offering a glimpse of days long gone by. A "Hoot Gibson" cowboy short went for \$1,250, the "Virgin of Bagdad" sold for \$700, and "Flipo vs Dempsey" in the boxing ring sold for \$1,500. A scale model 11 foot miniature gondola ferris wheel sold for \$200. The original debuted in Chicago in 1893 at the Columbian Exposition where it was known as the "Giant Wheel from Pittsburgh". In 1904 the ferris wheel operated at the World's Fair but was unprofitable, and ended up sold for scrap metal. A full size copy of the wheel can be seen in Prater Park in Vienna, Austria.

At 2:30 p.m. the sale concluded, and only one hour later about half of the carousel pieces had left the auditorium, destined for their new homes. The entire operation was handled smoothly and efficiently by Dave Norton's crew, with pieces brought to and from the stage on a forklift in order to allow all bidders a clear view of the item offered. An auction of this kind will probably be a tough act to follow, as collections as fine as the Hurlbut's had assembled may not be seen again for a long time. Even those visitors who went home without a new piece for their collection were still privileged to be able to see and enjoy these beautiful examples of carousel art.

The Hurlbut's were pleased with the wonderful turnout and level of interest in their collection. Mr. Hurlbut stated that he was sad to see the animals go, but he had owned them long enough and now it was time for someone else to enjoy them.



Dentzel jumpers sold for prices ranging from \$7,500 to \$9,500.



A rare Dentzel jumping deer brought a bid of \$19,500.



A Dentzel stander from the Knott's Berry Farm Lagoon carousel sold for \$37,500

**AUCTION PRICES**  
**NORTON AUCTIONEERS OF MICHIGAN, INC.**  
 ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER  
 ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST 25, 1990  
 BUD HURLBUT COLLECTION

**Gustav A. Dentzel, Knott's Berry Farm Lagoon  
 three-row menagerie carousel**

Lot	Item	Price
2	Dentzel lion .....	\$76,000
1	Dentzel flag horse .....	62,500
3	Dentzel tiger .....	57,500
5	Dentzel stander, "Dandy" horse .....	52,000
19	Dentzel cat with crab in mouth .....	39,000
4	Dentzel stander, eagle saddle .....	37,500
24	Dentzel rabbit .....	37,500
25	Dentzel rabbit .....	37,500
44	Dentzel rabbit .....	37,000
18	Dentzel stander, eagle saddle .....	36,000
43	Dentzel rabbit .....	34,500
20	Dentzel cat with bird .....	33,000
40	Dentzel cat with bird .....	32,000
8	Dentzel giraffe .....	32,000
9	Dentzel stander .....	30,000
26	Dentzel stander, roached mane .....	29,500
33	Dentzel stander .....	29,500
41	Dentzel cat with bird .....	29,500
39	Dentzel stander .....	29,000
21	Dentzel stander .....	28,000
50	Dentzel stander, roached mane .....	26,000
29	Dentzel bear .....	24,500
96	Rounding board, eagle with flag .....	23,000
14	Dentzel stander .....	22,000
48	Dentzel bear .....	20,500
6	Dentzel jumping deer .....	19,500
10	Dentzel prancing goat .....	19,500
37	Dentzel jumping deer .....	19,000
51	Dentzel ostrich .....	18,500
34	Dentzel ostrich .....	18,500
7	Dentzel ostrich .....	16,500
17	Dentzel prancing deer .....	16,000
49	Dentzel ostrich .....	16,000
46	Dentzel pig, with acorn .....	13,000
30	Dentzel pig, with acorn .....	11,500
47	Dentzel pig .....	10,500
31	Dentzel jumper, roached mane .....	10,000
12	Dentzel jumper .....	9,500
42	Dentzel jumper .....	9,500
52	Dentzel jumper .....	9,500
28	Dentzel jumper .....	9,000
38	Dentzel jumper .....	9,000
45	Dentzel jumper .....	9,000
11	Dentzel pig .....	8,500
32	Dentzel jumper .....	8,500
35	Dentzel jumper .....	8,500
13	Dentzel jumper .....	8,000
15	Dentzel jumper .....	8,000
16	Dentzel jumper .....	8,000
22	Dentzel jumper .....	8,000
36	Dentzel jumper .....	8,000

(Continued on page 49)

23	Dentzel jumper .....	7,500
27	Dentzel jumper .....	7,500
87	Rounding board, peacock picture .....	5,000
106	Rounding board, St. Bernard picture .....	4,750
85	Rounding board, hen & rooster picture .....	4,000
100	Rounding board, bison picture .....	2,200
52A	Inner scenery panels, all 18 .....	2,000
102	Rounding board, zebra picture .....	1,600
104	Rounding board, horse picture .....	1,600
77	Rounding board, moose picture .....	1,500
94	Rounding board, dromedary picture .....	1,500
98	Rounding board, caribou picture .....	1,500
103	Shield .....	1,500
90	Rounding board, rhino .....	1,300
83	Rounding board, lion .....	1,250
86	Shield .....	1,250
73	Rounding board, cat & kittens .....	1,200
81	Rounding board, tiger .....	1,100
92	Rounding board .....	1,100
105	Shield .....	1,100
72	Shield .....	1,000
79	Rounding board, elephant .....	1,000
84	Shield .....	1,000
88	Shield .....	1,000
89	Shield .....	1,000
99	Shield .....	1,000
101	Shield .....	1,000
71	Rounding board, giraffe .....	950
82	Shield .....	900
93	Shield .....	900
76	Shield .....	800
91	Shield .....	800
95	Shield .....	800
97	Shield .....	800
75	Rounding board, jaguar .....	700
78	Shield .....	700
74	Shield .....	600
80	Shield .....	600
53	Mirrors, lots 53 - 70 .....	250 to 500
107	Great Dane 40' trailer with Dentzel frame .....	85,000
108	Great Dane 40' trailer, racked for animals .....	22,500

Total for Dentzel machine ..... 1,384,250

**Miscellaneous figures from Castle Park and the Hurlbut collection.**

110	Dentzel flag horse .....	\$62,500
112	Dentzel tiger, Castle Park .....	49,000
113	Dentzel lion, Castle Park .....	42,500
111	Heyn stander on stand .....	32,500
129	Dentzel rabbit, in primer .....	29,000
114	Dentzel, eagle saddle .....	27,500
137	Dentzel, roached mane, eagle saddle .....	24,000
122	Dentzel stander, roached mane .....	16,000
115	Dentzel jumper, Castle Park .....	14,500
125	Dentzel pig .....	11,500
130	Dentzel "Listener" .....	11,500
118	Dentzel pig .....	11,000
116	Dentzel horse .....	10,500
128	Dentzel jumper .....	10,500
117	Dentzel jumper .....	10,000
126	Dentzel jumper .....	10,000

131	Dentzel jumper .....	9,000
120	Dentzel jumper, roached mane .....	8,500
121	Parker, armored, circa 1921 .....	8,000
123	Dentzel jumper .....	8,000
127	Dentzel jumper .....	8,000
144	Dentzel jumper .....	8,000
119	Dentzel jumper .....	7,500
132	Dentzel jumper .....	7,500
133	Dentzel jumper .....	7,500
140	Dentzel jumper .....	7,500
141	Dentzel jumper .....	7,500
143	Dentzel jumper .....	7,500
145	Dentzel prancer .....	7,500
124	Dentzel jumper .....	7,000
139	Dentzel jumper .....	7,000
135	Dentzel jumper .....	6,500
142	Dentzel jumper .....	6,500
134	Herschell-Spillman dog .....	6,000
136	Herschell-Spillman dog .....	6,000
138	Dentzel jumper .....	6,000
184	Gavioli duplex band organ .....	25,000
182	Wurlitzer 125 band organ .....	6,000

**PTC #31. Last operated at Indian Lake in Russel's Point, Ohio. Has been in storage since 1969.**

148	PTC stander with knotted tail .....	\$22,000
153	PTC stander with leopard blanket .....	19,500
149	PTC stander with roses .....	17,500
150	PTC stander with roses .....	17,500
174	PTC stander with gargoyle .....	17,000
157	PTC stander .....	15,000
177	PTC stander with roses .....	13,500
147	PTC chariot .....	13,000
155	PTC stander with roses .....	12,500
160	PTC stander with roses .....	11,000
162	PTC stander .....	11,000
166	PTC stander with gargoyle .....	11,000
169	PTC stander .....	11,000
146	PTC chariot .....	10,000
152	PTC jumper with pelt blanket .....	10,000
165	PTC stander, roached mane with rose .....	9,000
161	PTC jumper with pelt blanket .....	8,500
163	PTC jumper .....	7,500
167	PTC jumper .....	7,500
151	PTC jumper .....	7,500
156	PTC jumper .....	7,000
158	PTC jumper .....	7,000
171	PTC jumper .....	6,500
154	PTC jumper .....	6,000
159	PTC jumper .....	6,000
164	PTC jumper .....	6,000
168	PTC jumper .....	6,000
172	PTC jumper .....	6,000
176	PTC jumper .....	6,000
170	PTC jumper .....	5,500
175	PTC jumper .....	5,500
173	PTC jumper .....	5,000
178	PTC jumper .....	5,000
179	Dorsey 40' trailer with PTC, frame, scenery, etc. ...	2,500
180	Dorsey 40' trailer racked for horses .....	2,000
Total for PTC #31 carousel .....		328,500

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A 44 foot diameter Fabricon Carousel Company Supreme Carousel was installed in May, 1990 at Barefoot Landing, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It carries resin cast replicas of original carousel figures, chariots, rounding boards, shields and panels.

## A NEW FABRICON CAROUSEL AT BAREFOOT LANDING

**Photos: Fabricon Carousel Company**

Fabricon Carousel Company of Glendale, New York, hosts of the 1990 National Carousel Association Convention in New York City, builds new carousels and restores antique carousels. They restored, and presently operate, the antique Muller Bros. carousel at Forest Park, Queens.

The newest carousel built by Fabricon Carousel Company, the Barefoot Landing carousel, custom designed for its present site in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, evokes the spirit and tradition of the grandest of the antique wooden carousels using resin cast replicas. It was designed and painted with the same care and techniques used by Fabricon in their carousel restoration work. Furthermore it reflects Barefoot Landing's same careful attention to details as is found in all of their other attractions.

The Barefoot Landing carousel displays

a carefully selected choice of replicas from each of the three early carving styles, but its overall integrity is fashioned most closely after the Philadelphia style.

This carousel combines precise resin cast replicas of the carvings created by such American master carousel carvers as Illions, Dentzel, Muller, Herschell-Spillman and Loeff. In addition there are new, custom designed decorative elements such as the recently sculpted waterlily frog carved by Jeff Briggs of Fabricon—a truly singular combination of the old and the new.

The band organ facade is a replica of the one on Clementon Park's PTC's #49 carousel, built in 1919, and features music recorded from many of the most famous organ originals, reproduced on cassette and played through the best of today's sound system equipment. The two chariots are

signature pieces from the same PTC carousel and are extraordinary examples of the intricate carving of the old masters. The originals of the chariots recently sold at auction, and the two which are found on this carousel are the first cast replicas.

The beautiful tent top for the Barefoot Landing carousel was made by Amusement Canvas Outfitters of Tampa, Florida.

Visitors are welcome to enjoy the magic of the Barefoot Landing carousel, for it was very carefully designed with enjoyment and pleasure in mind.

Fabricon Carousel company has also delivered two 30 foot carousels recently; one in Whimsey Park, Hong Kong and one in the Columbian Centre, Columbia, South Carolina. For information: Fabricon Design Group, Inc., 84-06 73rd Avenue, Glendale, New York, 11385. (718) 326-7999.





The chariot on the Barefoot Landing carousel is a replica of the Clementon Park Philadelphia Toboggan Company # 49 hand-carved chariot.



A gaily painted replica of a Herschell-Spillman rooster rides on the Barefoot Landing carousel in North Myrtle Beach.



Some of the cast resin figures used on new carousels by the Fabricon Carousel Company. The two horses and giraffe are cast from original antique wooden figures while the frog is a new creation carved by Jeff Briggs of Fabricon in the tradition of the old carousel master carvers, and cast in structural resin.

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## Chance Rides Reproduces Authentic Americana with Antique Horses from the Bud Hurlbut Collection

A loan of five antique carousel horses from the vast Bud Hurlbut collection is the latest effort of Chance Rides, Inc. to fine-tune the authenticity of the Chance Classic Carousel. The Chance craftsmen cast molds from the hand-carved masterpieces to create models which preserve exquisite details from the originals.

John Streeter, President of Chance Rides, Inc., manufacturers of authentic carousels sold worldwide, explains the recent addition of new antique horse models. "We're constantly working to improve our breed and upgrade not only the machinery but the authenticity of the Chance Rides Dentzel-style Carousel. We're delighted to have had the opportunity to take molds from Bud Hurlbut's fantastic antique horses, from the Dentzel and Philadelphia Toboggan Company lines."

The craftsmanship of G.A. Dentzel, Steam and Horsepower Carousel Builder, brought the European tradition of fine hand-carved horses and innovative carousel machinery to America when he emigrated in 1867. Dentzel added a series of menagerie animals to his stable—a cat, a pig and a rabbit—along with fancy embellishments including drapery, garlands and stylized harnesses.



Faithful reproductions of extraordinary 1905-vintage Dentzel and PTC carousel figures have been added to the Chance Rides' menagerie.

In 1928, the Dentzel family sold their business to Philadelphia Toboggan Company (PTC). The influence of PTC is seen in the incorporation of carousels in build-

ings which form a magical backdrop for the carousel, creating a 3-minute magical experience for the rider.

Early PTC animals with eagles and parrots perched atop, and saddles made to resemble water lilies are among the trademarks of the line.

Dentzel and PTC animals and carousels have long been valued by collectors because of their extraordinary artistic designs. A rare Dentzel menagerie figure holds the world's record for a carousel figure sold at auction. The circa 1900 rooster sold in 1989 for \$148,000.

Wendell (Bud) Hurlbut's collection of more than 130 carousel animals, including 36 outside row standing horses (many dating to 1905), was auctioned on August 25 in Anaheim, California.

Hurlbut, California showman and entrepreneur, owned and operated the rides at Knotts Berry Farm for 30 years. An engineer and designer, Hurlbut fabricated more than 50 amusement park trains, among other rides and attractions. He consulted with Walt Disney on development of the first Disneyland in the early 1950's. Currently, Hurlbut, with his wife Lou, operates the Showcase Castle Amusement Park, Riverside, California.

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### The Smithsonian Catalogue features Carousel Ornaments

The Fall 1990 Smithsonian Catalogue has several carousel items available. On page 31 there are three very nice ornaments, a horse that resembles a Stein and Goldstein, a Dentzel cat with a fish in its mouth, and a colorful giraffe. The figures are large about 6 inches tall, each sells for \$12.50.

Also available is a Carousel Horse Sculpture that resembles a Dentzel flag horse for \$87.50 and three silver pendants, a Horse, a Hippocampus, and a Stork adapted from the museum's Van Alstyne Collection for \$60.00 each.

The catalogue can be ordered by writing to The Smithsonian Institution, Dept. 0006, Washington, D.C. 20073.

# The Illions Supreme Circus World Carousel is for Sale



The entire antique wooden carousel, less the horses, has been in storage since 1985. A color photo can be seen on page 204 of Charlotte Dinger's "Art of the Carousel". Daniel's Den can furnish heavy duty steel reinforced fiberglass horses molded from the L. A. County Illions Supreme, is so desired. We do not wish to break up this magnificent machine, but our storage facilities dictate that we must sell. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own this great piece of history. Serious inquiries only. \$150,000.



Spillman Engineering with a bearskin blanket from a traveling machine out of Michigan. Comes with a copy of the original 1920 bill of sale. \$7,000

Parker stargazer with a lion's head on pelt saddle, jewels, and feathers on bridle. From Playland Park, San Antonio, Texas. \$12,000



Last of the Savage horses from our English carousel. \$1,500-\$1,700 each. Write for availability.

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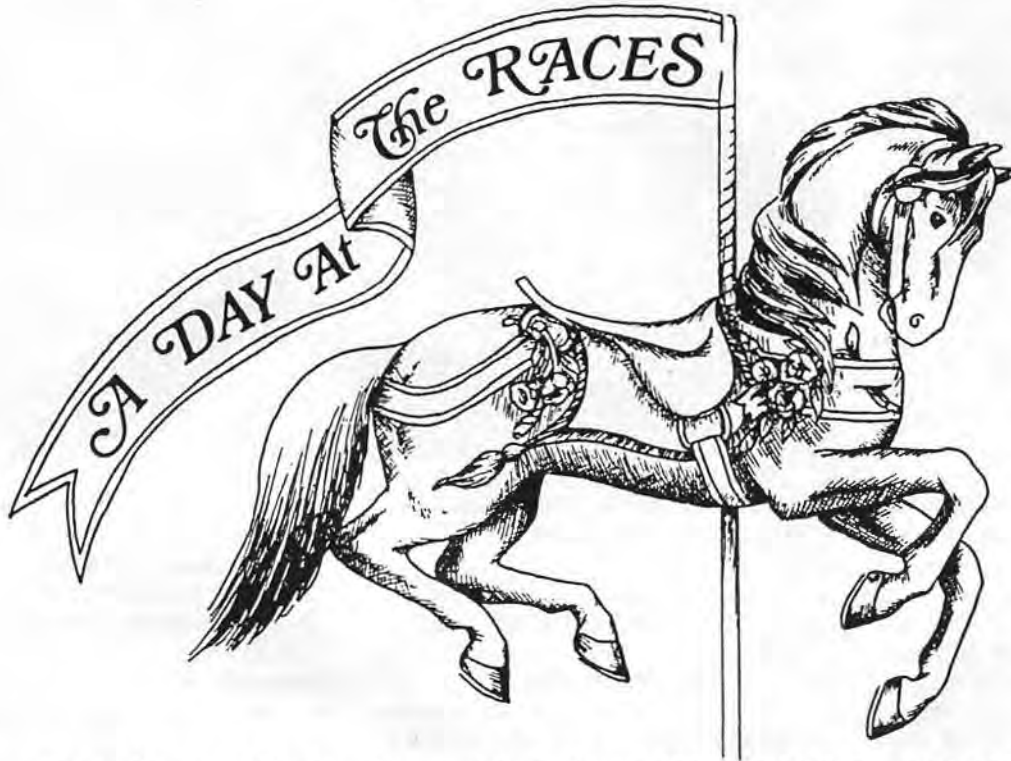


Contact John Daniel of  
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# AUCTION

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Carousel Auctions, Incorporated, would like to announce the following auction information: to insure the integrity of complete carousels for future generations, we will not consign whole carousels. We would like once more to bring excitement to an auction of carousel art and are accepting consignments for this festive occasion taking place amongst the spectacular foliage of Connecticut's valleys.

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*The Carousel News & Trader*

*Advertising Rates*

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## BUSINESSWEEK RECOGNIZES CAROUSELS

The September 17 edition of *BusinessWeek* magazine educated their readers on a little of the history of carousels and what to look for if buying carousel figures for investment purposes. The one page article, outflanked by stories of Europe's auto industry, banking and finances, investments, the Iraq situation, and other international news, was very prestigious-looking with five carousel animals in full color prancing and leaping across the center of page 157.

Sotheby's was mentioned for having sold the highest priced figure at auction—a Dentzel rooster for \$148,500. The carousel animals in the picture, a Herschell-Spillman armored horse and four menagerie animals, cat, lion, camel and frog will be auctioned at Christie's in New York on October 18.

Readers were urged to look in their barns and attics to see if they might have a valuable figure tucked away. But *BusinessWeek* also warned of the counterfeits now flooding the market, being snatched up by unwary buyers.

The informative article, "Carousel Critters that Fetch a King's Ransom", also mentioned *The Carousel News & Trader* and Zon International Publishing, the publishers of William Mann's book *Painted Ponies* and the *Carousel Shopper* that comes out once a year.



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Consignment Sale

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CONSIGNMENTS OF ALL KINDS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 8:00 A.M. SALE DAY 10% COMMISSION  
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See carving pattern on page 32 for this circa 1910 P.T.C. horse from Palace Playland, Old Orchard, Maine.

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